

FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

No. 125

SPRING 1994

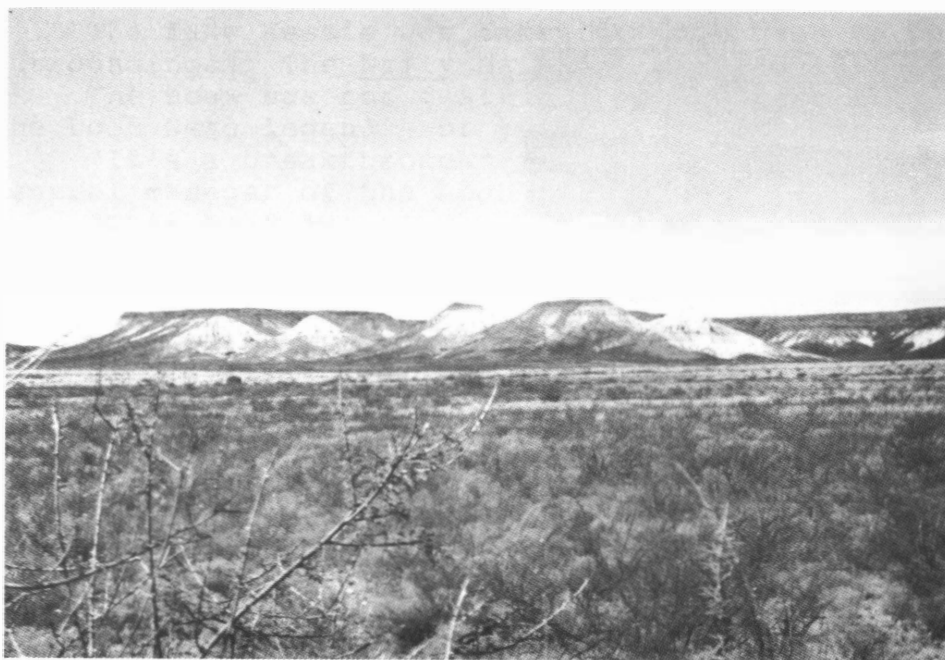


Highway billboard sign between Marfa and Alpine, Texas, on Route 90.

Your editor talking to U.S. Border Patrol about the west Texas mystery lights on Route 67.



UNITED AERIAL PHENOMENA AGENCY



East, off Route 169, in
the middle of the mystery
light area.
(Mitchell Flat)

Main viewing area of
mystery lights on
Route 90.



FROM THE EDITOR
by Allan J. Manak

Benita "Bunny" Owens and I arrived at Alpine, Texas at 11:45 p.m. on October 16, 1993. It was difficult to find lodging because the local college, Sul Ross University, was having a homecoming celebration.

The next day, we drove to an area off Route 67 to check out a parking place that would be in the middle of where most of the mysterious Marfa lights are seen. The is on Route 169 just east of Route 67.

On the way back to Alpine I spotted a Border Patrol car, so we pulled along side his vehicle and I got out to tell him that we would be on Route 169 the next night. The reason being is that I didn't want the border patrol to think that we were someone sneaking into the United States from Mexico. He told me that he would inform the other officers that we would be in the area.

It was then that I asked him if he had ever seen the mystery lights. He said "Oh yes, on several occasions." I then asked him where would be the best area for us to see them? He said "right there" as he pointed to the Mitchell Flat area. The very same area that we had just driven through, Route 169. I thanked him, and we parted.

Later in this same day we drove to the official viewing area off of Route 90. The area is located about 12 miles west of Alpine and approximately 9 miles east of Marfa.

We arrived at the site about 8:30 p.m. The site is a semi-paved drive, south off the main road, Route 90. It has picnic tables, trash cans and always other vehicles. This particular night there were six other vehicles parked when we arrived. We were at this site for about four hours. As always, cars kept coming and going. We were not lucky this night, as we didn't see any unusual lights.

The next night October 18th, we drove onto Route 169 into the Mitchell Flat area. We drove about 6 to 7 miles when we stopped and turned the car around so as to face west. About 45 minutes of viewing the beautiful starry sky and the area around the car, we were shocked as we saw this tremendous flash of light, as if someone had turned a huge light on for just a split second. The light repeated itself a few minutes later, and this time we heard rumbling in the distance. Needless to say, we got into the car and drove out of that area back to the official viewing area, and sat in and out of the car for another four hours with no luck again.

The next day after seeing and visiting some historical areas, we dined at a local restaurant. As soon as we were seated I spotted two Border Patrol officers just finishing their dinner. I waited until they were just about through with their last cup of coffee when I pounced at them.

Yes, both officers were interested in the mystery lights, both had sightings on a number of occasions, and both told me we were in the proper area to view them. That evening we spent five hours listening to the sounds of Yanni on the tape deck, and seeing nothing unusual.

While visiting the Big Bend area, we had the occasion to visit Judith M. Breeske, Ph.D., author of the book The Marfa Lights at her place of business, the Ocotillo Enterprises, and much to our despair, the good doctor was attending a seminar in Arizona.

All in all, the Big Bend area is a very fine place to visit, even if one does not see those pesky mystery lights, and have West Texas lightning scare the hell out of them.

UFO BITS AND PIECES

by Allan J. Manak

31st ANNUAL NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE UPDATE

Kevin Randle, noted lecturer and author of a just published book on the Roswell crash has been added to the evening session. His lecture will be at 8:00 p.m. with a workshop program at 9:45 p.m. on the 17th of September. Be sure to write us and request ticket information!

SOLAR FLARE MYTH? "The time has come to lay the solar flare myth to rest," says Jack Gosling, a scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Many textbooks state that energetic outbursts from the sun's surface, or solar flares, cause magnetic storms such as aurora here on earth. But this view is wrong, according to Gosling. Although some flares occur at the same time as geomagnetic storms, he points out that a one-to-one association doesn't exist between the two sets of events.

Instead, says Gosling, we should focus on coronal mass ejections, gigantic blobs of hot gas, as the cause of geomagnetic disturbances. Mass ejections do not result from flares but rather from the restructuring of magnetic fields in the sun's outer atmosphere, or corona. (Astronomy Magazine, April 1994.)

SMALL MISSION TO A BIG ROCK. NASA has initiated a new mission to send a small spacecraft to orbit the asteroid 433 Eros. The craft, called the Near-Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR), will be launched in February 1996 and will reach Eros in late December 1998. This mission will be the first in NASA's new low-cost Discovery program.

Flight plans call for NEAR to spend a year or more in orbit around Eros, at times coming within 10 km of the asteroid's surface. NEAR will measure the asteroids physical properties, map its surface features, and survey its geology.

The craft's trip to Eros is lengthy. NEAR will sail out into the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter (where it will encounter another small asteroid 2968 Iliya in August 1996) then it will come back to earth and fly past it in January 1998. Finally, NEAR returns to the main belt, reaching Eros in late December 1998.

NEW BOOK BY UAPA: ICE FALLS AND ANGEL HAIR It offers, in chronological order, the history of these strange anomalies as never before recorded. Author Allan J. Manak is neither a believer or non-believer in the UFO connection, nor is he close-minded to these mystery falls.

In ICE FALLS AND ANGEL HAIR, Manak's 38 years of research has uncovered and documented hundreds of thrilling cases. In showing the historic value of these occurrences, ICE FALLS AND ANGEL HAIR, might just be one of the most important research books connecting the UFO enigma with the closed-minded science of today.

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FLYING SAUCER DIGEST is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by the United Aerial Phenomena Agency (UAPA). Chairman/Editor is Allan J. Manak. Assistant Editor is Rick R. Hilberg. Typist is Carol Hilberg. Staff artist is Benita C. Owens. UAPA is a non-profit organization

dedicated to the study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and related subjects. All correspondence and manuscripts are welcomed, but they must be accompanied by an SASE to be returned.

Subscription rates are: 4 issues \$9.00 or 8 issues \$17.00. All foreign subscriptions add \$3.00 per year. UAPA, Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134

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Now, for the first time anywhere, ICE FALLS AND ANGEL HAIR offers this fascinating mystery which may very well be: UFO related, alien connected, secret cover-up, astronomical phenomena or nature's enigma.

The book will sell for \$10.00 when published, but for subscribers only, the pre-publication price is \$8.00 when ordered before May 1, 1994. The book will have new full page art illustrations by UAPA's Benita C. Owens. Reserve your copy now, and receive 10 UFO maps absolutely free. Send to: UAPA Book Offer, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

AROUND AND ABOUT THE SAUCER WORLD

by Rick R. Hilberg

LIGHTED OBJECT SPOTTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

This November 9th incident was reported by staffer Doug Mauldin of the Rock Hill Evening Standard:

Ed Davis looked up in his backyard late Tuesday night to see a strange pattern of lights hovering over a tall pine tree.

He sensed something mysterious was in the dark sky. "It looked like a string of lights 4 or 5 feet long and some in the middle going straight up," said Davis, a 56-year-old insurance salesman and tax consultant. "It moved off to the left real slow, then straight up, then sliding toward York real slow."

He quickly telephoned his wife at her job in Kings Mountain, NC. She told him, "Get my puppy in."

Davis said whatever the phenomenon was - call it a UFO or whatever - it didn't make noises like an airplane or helicopter.

The York Police Department reported receiving no calls about an object in the sky at that time and officials at the Federal Aviation Administration in Charlotte said nothing unusual showed up on radar that scans the area.

Davis said he spotted the lights hanging over a 60-foot pine tree behind his house on Giles Road when he went out to his office in a small utility building about midnight.

The lights were about 130 feet away, 15 feet above the tree. He thought it was a reflection from street lights in his eyeglasses until he removed them and saw the lights were real enough.

He called to his stepson, Raymond Owens, 28, inside the house, who came outside to find out what was going on.

"He said, 'God, Ed, what's there?' I said if it can't be identified, it's a UFO. I don't know what it was, but I told Raymond it had to be a UFO."

In the excitement, Davis said he forgot to get the family video camera and also ignored his wife's request to take their pet chow chow dog, Kimo, into the house.

Besides, he said, there was nothing to film. He could see no form or shape against the sky, just the blazing white lights in the cross-like pattern and an eerie silence. It moved away slowly, stopping occasionally, before disappearing like a plane flying to the horizon.

"I never thought anything about being afraid. I just wanted to find out what it was and thought some others might see it too."

Davis is not sure UFOs exist. "I think there has got to be something out there, but I've never thought much about it."

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DECEMBER 28th REPORT FROM WILLOW CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Willow Creek is often called the "home" of Bigfoot in that part of the state, according to our intrepid Bigfoot expert Allan Manak. Anyway, we wish we could connect the following incident gleaned from the January 5th Klam-Ity Kourier of Willow Creek with that elusive creature, but alas, we can't:

If you saw an unidentified flying object, with bright lights on it, on a dark night, as you were driving along Highway 299, would you report it - or even say anything about it? Maybe ... and maybe not.

You might wonder how people would react to the story ... and question whether you would be treated like some others who have reported UFO's in the past.

That may have been how Harold Hough, retired PG&E manager of Willow Creek felt about it one night last week when he had such an experience with what can presently only be termed as a UFO - an unidentified object.

It was Tuesday night, Dec. 28, 8:30 p.m., when Harold and his wife, Lorraine and a grandson were eastbound on Highway 299, and as they were rounding the 40-mile-an-hour curve west of Berry Summit, they saw a string of bright lights up near the summit.

"At first, the thought occurred to me that the lights were on a house, like one decorated, but I didn't know there was a house in that area," Harold said this week, after The Kourier received a tip about the story and phoned him for details.

As Hough neared the summit, he said the object appeared to be standing still, then moving in a southwest to westerly direction, slowly at first, then appearing to pick up speed.

Hough stopped his vehicle and got out just about the time the object went over them. In the meantime, another vehicle had stopped near them and the occupants were also watching the object, but they drove on as soon as the flying object had flown away. Hough wishes he knew who they were - at least to compare notes with what they saw.

The leading lights were bright, white lights, but as the object flew by, some more lights were visible - a square pattern of colored lights on the bottom of the craft - red, green and several other colors.

Hough said he could not see the size or shape of the vehicle, as its lights were predominant.

"It was so dark, you couldn't see anything but lights," he said.

He estimated the craft was about 500 feet above them, but that was only a rough estimate, he said.

"It was moving so slow to have been a plane - maybe it was a helicopter," Hough suggested, obviously searching for a plausible explanation.

Hough said he thought at first it might have been some kind of search and rescue operation, but authorities were unaware of anything like that going on in the area.

SEVERAL SIGHT MYSTERY OBJECT IN JANUARY VERMONT REPORT

What's transparent, rectangular, and lit all over?

That's what four Franklin County residents would like to know after spotting a brightly lit rectangular craft in the night skies over Enosburgh and Sheldon Sunday.

Trudy Bryce said she and her husband, Tom, were lying in bed watching television in their Sheldon home at about 9:15 p.m. when Tom saw lights outside the bedroom window to the east.

"He said, 'my God, that's really weird,'" said Trudy. "I said, 'It's just a car,' because it looked like headlights. But he said, 'Trudy, it can't be a car, there's no road there,'"

Trudy said they opened the window and turned the TV sound all the way down, but could not hear anything. Trudy said they watched for 10 minutes a craft moving very slowly over the landscape, at what she estimated was an altitude of 100 feet.

What Trudy described was a square, or rectangular craft, "like a hang glider, but enclosed" that "looked transparent, like one big window." She said the craft had two bright, white lights on one side and a fainter string of white lights around its perimeter.

Trudy said the craft floated across a pasture, and then disappeared behind a house heading west towards St. Albans.

"It was probably just an airplane," she said, "but when you don't hear anything, and there are just steady lights, no blinking..."

About 15 minutes earlier, and six miles to the east, Leonard Weed was walking home when he looked towards the village and saw bright lights hovering about 500 feet over the Health Center.

Weed said he watched it hover there for three to four minutes as he walked towards his house. When he reached his house, he went in and told his wife, Leah, to look out a window.

"He said, 'you want to see some strange lights?'" said Leah.

When they looked out, the "strange" lights were moving west toward Phillip Parent's farm in Sheldon. Leah went outside to get a better look.

"It appeared to be square, actually two squares joined together," said Leah. She said it was nearly transparent, "like it was a window lighted up with lights around each side."

Leah described "two big bright lights" on the craft. They both said the craft was silent, although Leah thought she heard a low vibration.

WEIRDOLGY

by Rick R. Hilberg

FAMOUS "NESSIE" PHOTO EXPOSED AS HOAX

Many monster hunters were stunned by this March 16th A P dispatch from London:

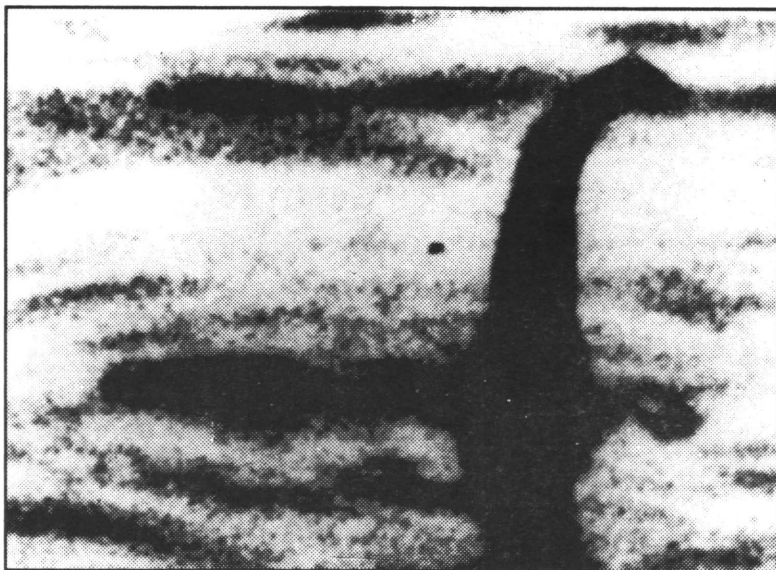
The purported Loch Ness monster pictured in a famous 1934 photo was just a toy submarine fitted with a fake sea-serpent head, two Loch Ness researchers say.

Researchers Alastair Boyd and David Martin claim one of the conspirators in the hoax told them about it just before he died in November at the age of 90, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

The photo, depicting a sea beast with a hump back and long neck, was attributed to Robert Wilson, an eminent London gynecologist.

He said he took it April 19, 1934, after his companion saw a commotion in the water and shouted: "My God, it's the monster!"

The London newspaper said Boyd and Martin learned that Wilson was part of a hoax hatched by his friend Marmaduke Wetherell, a filmmaker and self-styled big game hunter hired by the Daily Mail in 1933 to hunt Nessie.



Wetherell's son Ian and stepson Christian Spurling were also in on it. Boyd and Martin said Spurling, a skilled model maker, told them he built the model for the 1934 photo at Wetherell's request.

The fake Nessie was taken to Loch Ness to be photographed in authentic surroundings. The Daily Mail ran the photo as a world exclusive.

The hoax has not dealt a fatal blow to those who seek the truth behind the Loch Ness legend - or those who profit from the curiosity.

"It's a breakthrough" in the scientific research, said David Cotton, general manager of the Loch Ness Center at Drumnadrochit.

"This head has always been a wild card to us... It was the only sighting of its sort and always caused us enormous problems."

SASQUATCH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA?

Richard Watts of the Victoria Times-Colonist filed this on January 7th: Massive footprints and a "whoo'whoo'whoop" call in the wilderness have a wildlife biologist hot on the trail of a saquatch on Vancouver Island.

John Bindernagel has found massive, human-like footprints in Strathcona Park while on a hiking trip. He said the footprints are about 40 centimetres long and very broad with a massive, full heel.

"They are basically like a human footprint in length," he said.

His other piece of evidence for the existence of the sasquatch on Vancouver Island is a strange, ape-like call he heard at a friend's cabin near Comox Lake in 1992. "The only thing which I have ever heard which is similar is a chimpanzee in Uganda - it was sort of a 'whoo whoo whoop'"

He said he knows of no other creature in North America which makes such a call and he believes it was a sasquatch trying to communicate with its own kind.

He said his friend told him he has heard the cry often always in spring, and always at dusk. Once nighttime arrives the calls shut down.

Despite the solid credentials, he kept his sasquatch finds to himself for many years out of fear of being branded a crackpot. He found the footprints in 1988 and heard the call in 1992.

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